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Content!—There have recently been issued several cheap reprints of the 1877 edition of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, an edition long since superseded. These books are given false names—"Webster's Unabridged," "The New Webster's," "Webster's Big Dictionary," "Webster's Encyclopedia Dictionary," etc., etc.

Many announcements concerning them are very misleading, as the body of each, from A to Z, is 44 years old, and printed from cheap plates made by photographing the old pages.

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A CHINAMAN'S FATE.

Declared Dead by a Society, He Was Ta boored and Killed Himself.

In San Francisco there's a Chinese secret society, the laws of which are as strict and unchanging as those of the Medes and Persians. One of the members of this society told some of its secrets—an offense punishable by death. He was to be tried in the usual way before a tribunal of the society.

The night of the ordeal was fixed. The culprit was represented by abt counsel, but the sentence was death—as was expected. An executioner was called from an adjoining room. He was a strapping big Chinaman, and wore one of those hideous wooden masks that art critics think so beautiful. He carried a double-edged sword fully five feet long. To test the edge he folded a newspaper in eight parts, and the knife went through those eight thicknesses of paper as if it were a bit of butter in summer time.

The culprit was brought in upon his knees, and another Chinaman, also on his knees, faced him and caught the traitor by the cue. He drew the culprit's neck toward him, the smock was pulled over the shoulders, and with one mighty swing the double-edged sword descended. Like a flash it clove the air and then stopped. A fractional part of an inch separated the sword from the victim's neck. Very, very gently the executioner brought the weapon down until it just touched the traitor's neck. Then, as it is a crime to kill a man in San Francisco, he stopped. He brought the sword to his side again, turned to the judges and said: "The culprit is dead."

The newly executed got on his feet and said something to the judge. The judge did not heed—for the culprit was dead. He tried to speak to the Chinamen, who were hurrying from the hall. But he spoke to deaf ears. To all intents and purpose he was a dead man.

He made his way into the street, and the first thing that caught his eye was a huge poster proclaiming to all Chinatown that he had been executed that evening. No one would speak to him, no one look at him—he was a dead man—just as dead as if the executioner's sword had in reality descended.

For a whole week that man wandered about Chinatown, the posters proclaiming his execution staring him in the face at every turn. Not a crust of bread could he beg—not a mouthful of water. His people knew him as dead—he was past, gone, buried.

And so one day he wandered up into the American portion of San Francisco and stole a revolver from a messenger boy, who was showing it to some companions. Then he ran down into Chinatown, sat down on the pavement beneath one of his own death notices and blew the added brains out of his poor Chinese head.

Baby's Tooth Set in a Ring.

Exclusive young matrons of the smart set who are also doting mothers have just introduced into fashion a new ring, which is exciting the greatest attention.

The woman who first wore one of these mysterious rings told all about it the other day to a girl friend who was admiring it and wanted to copy it. She said, "Why, the little white stone wouldn't be considered a gem to any one but me. It is only one of my baby girl's pearly white teeth. She knocked out a little front tooth not long ago, and as it was too precious to throw away, I took it to my jeweler and asked him if it couldn't be set in a ring. And here is the result. I told him to surround the tooth with diamonds and turquoises, alternating with one another, as I think just the touch of blue adds much to the beauty of the ring. The baby tooth encircled with diamonds looks too white. A number of my friends who have copied my idea have taken one of their baby's teeth to the jeweler's and had it surrounded with the child's birth stone."

The Horse in Battle.

A veteran cavalry horse partakes of the hopes and fears of battle just the same as his rider. As the column swings into line and waits, the horse grows nervous over the waiting. If the wait is spun out, he will tremble and sweat and grow apprehensive. If he has been six months in the service he knows every bugle call. As the call comes to advance the rider can feel him working at the bit with his tongue to get it between its teeth. As he moves out he will either seek to get on faster than he should or bolt. He cannot bolt, however. The lines will carry him forward, and after a minute he will grip, lay back his ears, and one can feel his sudden resolve to brave the worst and have done with it as soon as possible.

Small Vegetables the Best.

Epicures are developing a taste for miniature specimens of the earth's products. To supply the demand in larger cities for young vegetables, such as the French consider the most delicate and appetizing, the truck farmers bring to market tiny potatoes, turnips, carrots, cauliflower and even heads of cabbage the size of a baseball. Such vegetables are, it is said, more easily digested, their fiber being tender and succulent, instead of tough and often of a woody nature as the growth arrives at maturity.

The Right of Burial.

Despite the growing difficulty of finding space for the interment of public men within the walls of Westminster Abbey at least one notable family still enjoys a prescriptive right of burial there. These are the Dukes of Northumberland, who have the exclusive use of a spacious vault in the chapel St. Nicholas. The vault, which was the last resting place of the Seymours, was opened as recently as 1883 to receive the remains of Lady Louisa Percy, the elder sister of the present Duke.

An Automaton Duck.

Of all inventors of mechanical curiosities Jacques Vaucanson was certainly the king, says the Scientific American. His automatic duck was to connoisseurs an object of admiration. The bird waddled off in search of food and picked up and swallowed the seeds that it met with. It was impossible to distinguish this duck from a living one. It splashed about in the water and quacked at pleasure.

PERPLEXING HAWAII

AN ISLAND WHICH HAS NO NORTH SOUTH, EAST OR WEST.

The Difficulty of Getting One's Bearings—Terms Used in Indicating the Different Sides of Streets—Are Official and Used in All Legal Documents.

Visitors to Honolulu are often perplexed to get the points of the compass fixed in their minds with reference to streets and locations. They are still more perplexed to find nobody who knows them and nobody who feels the need of knowing them. To the visitor especially from the Mississippi Valley where the Congressional survey of public lands has laid out everything four-square, so that directions and distances are always thought of in their relation to north, south, east or west, this is incomprehensible.

But it does not take a very long residence there to learn that the points of the compass in the ordinary matters of direction are of very little practical use, and the prevailing system indicating locations and direction, adapted from that used by the native Hawaiians and continuing the use of their nomenclature, is a very practical one and well adapted to conditions.

The islands are small and of volcanic origin. There is at least one main range of mountains on each island, though there may be subsidiary ones. As is well known, mountains do not run with special reference to the points of the compass. And the narrow valleys cut and crowded out of the volcanic mass and extending from the mountains to the sea bear still less appreciable relation to them. So that if one were to establish the points of the compass with relation to any one of these valleys a quarter of a mile would bring him to another, where he would have to take his bearings all afresh. But there are two objects he can never get out of sight of. These are the mountain and the sea. And on this fact the basis both of the nomenclature and of the system of direction rests. With relation to any point the two cardinal directions are toward the mountain and toward the sea. Now, the native Hawaiian terms for these are "mauka," toward or in direction of the mountain, and "makai" toward or in direction of the sea.

The topography of the country, a series of valleys extending from the mountain to the sea, and the feudal tenure under which land was held in the ancient day, led to the division of the country into narrow strips, or districts—moku, as the larger were called; ahupuaa, the next smaller, and illi, those still smaller, but all, with very few exceptions, extending from the seashore to the top of the mountain. In this way common people, restricted to their own illi, yet had access to the sea to fish and swim and ride the surf, to the mountains for firewood and building material, and to land between to cultivate taro. The boundaries of these districts were all carefully defined in time immemorial and remain the same to-day. Moreover, each district had its name, and that name remains.

With the mountain above and the sea below and the narrow districts in succession, each with its boundaries and name well defined, the basis of the system and nomenclature of direction was complete. A given point or object is "mauka," toward the mountain, or "makai," toward the sea, in relation to another object or point; and it is "maihiki," or "ewa," in the direction of the district of Ewa, for the other relations of direction.

So that in Honolulu, for instance, where no street runs north and south, or east and west, and few streets run straight in any direction for any great distance, no one speaks of the north or south side of the street—no one can; nor of the east and west sides. But every street has a mauka and makai side, or a mauihi and ewa side. So a particular corner may be precisely and accurately described as the mauka-mauihi corner, or the makai-ewa.

These terms are not only colloquial, but official. They are used in contracts, deeds, wills and statutes. They suit conditions and have grown out of them.

More Perversity.

"Dar's one of de sma'test mules in dis city," announced the proud proprietor of an ash cart to one of his patrons. "He und'stan's eb'ry w'd 's'ay, same like he was a pussen."

"Hardly, I guess. Tell him to go ahead a little."

"Get up, dar, Sunshine!" and the mule began to back.

"Look at that, now."

"Dat's what I'm telling you, boss. Ef dat mule don't und'stan' me p'fect, how do he know to do de op'site eb'ry time? He never miss since I had him, boss."—Detroit Free Press.

A Strange Animal.

Devil's Island, made famous as the prison of Dreyfus, has a strange species of animal found nowhere else on earth. This odd animal has been called the coati, and is a peculiar combination of mammiferous, carnivorous plantigrade.

It is about the size of a cat when full grown, with a long head shaped like a pyramid, a tremendous nose, making it the Cyrano of animals. The jaws are long, like those of the young alligator and it uses its forepaws to carry its food to the mouth, as monkeys and squirrels do.

From the Other Side.

Here is a "personall" that appeared not long ago in a London newspaper. "Willie, return to your distracted wife and frantic children! Do you want to hear of your old mother's suicide? You will if you do not let us know where you are. Anyway, send back your father's colored meerschaum."

And yet we say the Briton has no very lively sense of humor.

The City of Ghost.

The famous old city of Ghent, Belgium is built on twenty-six islands which are connected with one another by eighty bridges. Three hundred streets and thirty public squares are contained in these islands.

The Mushroom Lever.

In London a paving stone which weighed 300 pounds, and which was wedged in on all sides by other stones, was lifted up by a mushroom.